

REMARKS

The Drawings

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the approval of the drawings by the Draftsperson.

Oath / Declaration

Enclosed herewith is a Supplemental Declaration addressing the defects noted by the Examiner. In particular, the filing date of the priority document (GB 9626442.9) has been correctly indicated as December 20, 1996. Also enclosed is a certified copy of this document as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(b)(3).

Applicant respectfully takes issue, however, with the Examiner's statement that the priority application issued as a patent on February 5, 1997. In fact, the priority application was permitted to go abandoned and never directly issued as a patent (see attached Patent Status Information from the British Patent Office). Thus, no such patent document exists.

Priority / Specification

The Specification has been amended to include a formal priority claim to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/284,030 filed on April 6, 1999, now abandoned. This formal priority claim is being submitted after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2)(ii), but the Applicant has previously included a priority claim to the benefit of the '030 application in the transmittal documents that accompanied the present application at the time of filing (see enclosed copy of page 1). This (informal) priority claim was previously recognized by the Office as evidenced by its mention in the Filing Receipt mailed on August 1, 2001 (copy also enclosed). Thus, Applicant submits that no petition or surcharge is required to enter the present amendment perfecting the formal priority claim. *MPEP* § 201.11 ¶ 2.39 (beneath Examiner Note).

Response to Petition

The Examiner's withdrawal of the prior abandonment of the present application is acknowledged with appreciation.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that the claims remaining in the present application are allowed is acknowledged with appreciation. In view of the amendment and remarks presented herein, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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